

## DEBATES OF THE DIVINES.

The General Convention of the Episcopal Church.

## Interesting Points of Yesterday's Proceedings at Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Oct. 18.—To-day's session of the general convention of the Protestant Episcopal church was opened with morning prayer by Rev. Thomas Moore, of Georgia, and Rev. Theodore P. Barber, D. D., of the diocese of Easton. The benediction was pronounced by the Rt. Rev. Dr. Thompson, assistant bishop of Mississippi.

The house of deputies was then called to order. Rev. Dr. Schenck, of Long Island, presented the report of the special committee on the disabled clergy fund. It stated that the increase in contribution during the past three years was over \$12,000. The report was placed on the journal.

Rev. John Wilkinson, of the diocese of Quincy, offered a resolution that a committee be appointed to consider and report as soon as may be, what portion of the report of the joint committee on the prayer book, ought to be immediately adopted.

Mr. Wilkinson stated that what is wanted now is flexibility. Enrichment can follow.

There being an objection, it was placed on the calendar.

Report No. 2 of the committee on the prayer book, declining to recommend the passage of the resolution proposed by the Rev. Dr. Fulton, relative to amending the constitution by striking out the words "Protestant Episcopal," was then taken up.

Rev. Dr. Fulton, of Missouri, had heard that the portion of the report of the committee on baptism and the holy communion would go over to the next general convention. He considered the use of a thing the best test.

Report No. 4 of the committee on the prayer book, not approving of the proposed setting forth of a Sunday school hymn by the general convention, was next in order.

Rev. Mr. Buford said the priest has charge of all the souls in his parish, and the Sunday school system takes away the responsibility from the rector and places it in the hands of irresponsible persons. The rector of the parish should be held responsible for the Sunday school. He contended that the house ought by no means to acquiesce in the resolution.

If the convention should say that they would put forth a Sunday school hymn and require its use, it would take away the beautiful Christmas Eve hymn, which has been sung in Sunday school, and the chorus was, "Let us away, let us away." The children took it in a literal sense, and left the school.

Rev. Dr. Phillips Brooks, of Massachusetts, stated that his church, the resolution adopted, worked with absolute freedom, and he hoped the matter would be left where it is now.

Rev. Dr. Gibson, of Virginia, moved as a substitute that a joint committee be appointed, consisting of two bishops, two clergymen, and two laymen, to prepare a report on the subject.

The motion was not agreed to, and the convention also decided to adopt the report of the committee.

The order of the day was then taken up, viz., the report of the committee on amendments to the constitution to the general theological seminary.

Rev. Dr. Thomas T. Davies, of Pennsylvania, said the question before them was not the whole constitution, but only concurrence with the house of bishops in articles 2 and 3. The board of trustees now consists of the bishops and nearly 400 trustees scattered all over the church. The suggestion now is that the board shall consist of the bishops of the church, who shall signify their acceptance in writing, and that the house of deputies shall elect twenty-five persons.

The minority report suggested that it might result that these twenty-five persons might either be all clergymen or all laymen, but there was every safeguard against such contingency. The proposed amendments to the constitution had been adopted at a regular meeting of the board of trustees after a most full and thorough discussion. All those who desire the future welfare of the seminary will give their hearty support to the resolution.

Rev. G. A. Carstensen, of the diocese of Pittsburgh, said the minority of the diocese fully recognized the necessity of a reduction in the number of the board, but claimed that there should be a proper representation from the laity. The management is in the hands of a standing committee and not one dollar can be appropriated. It is not a question of reducing the board, but of having a representation from the laity.

He appeared as a lay son of the seminary not to inflict a severe wound on her and destroy her identity altogether; not to set her aside and place up a stepchild in her place, but to virtually change the name of the institution to that of the Pan Episcopal Divinity School of the diocese of New York.

Dr. Shattuck, of Massachusetts, contended that the more we can reduce the board of trustees the better. The trustees from each diocese would do no good primarily or otherwise.

Rev. Dr. Dix, of New York, thought it proper to say something as a member of the standing committee. At the meeting of the board in 1882 a very important amendment to the constitution was made. The amended constitution has been agreed to by the house of bishops. It is impossible for any permanent relief to come to the institution—viz., the trustees, house of bishops, and house of deputies—until three bodies concur. The house is now larger than the entire clerical and lay members of the house of deputies, plus all the bishops. The board of trustees never meets and never can meet; it is utterly irresponsible, and the management falls into the hands of a few men.

When the present dean of the seminary was invited to New York he was warned by his friends not to take the office. The triennial report speaks of the great prosperity of the seminary, but Dr. Dix wished to call attention to the fact that the \$157,000 contributed during the past year, fully \$100,000 was contributed by the dean (Rev. Dr. Hoffman) and members of his family. When the business men of New York are asked for contributions to the seminary they say, "Not a dollar, so long as you have this propertarian board." The aim of the proposed amendment is to preserve all the rights that now exist, and preserve the general character of the seminary. He believed that the bishops would wisely exercise their powers. The dioceses are all represented in the house of deputies, and are competent to elect the trustees.

Rev. Dr. Langford, of New Jersey, said he was not an alumnus or a trustee of the seminary, but he had had any special interest in it. He thought it time that men should throw away all shades of opinion, and make the institution in fact, what it is in name, the general theological seminary of the Protestant Episcopal church. He had been told that the trustees would not tolerate themselves out of office. In that event the very large number in the board of trustees would strangle and be fatal to the seminary. Whether the board of trustees be numbered by hundreds or by scores, if they are scattered all over the country, they will embarrass the standing committee.

Mr. Isaac Atwater, of Minnesota, said, if the amendments are rejected, there is no probability of having a substitute on which the church can agree.

Rev. Dr. Lewis, of Maryland, appealed to the house in behalf of consistency and truth. The question is whether this is a general theological seminary, and whether it shall continue so. It has never been intended by the church that any special interest should be represented in the board of trustees without the clergy or laity. Each diocese, no matter how small, has a right to representation. The

## FACTS ABOUT VIRGINIA.

A Republican Gives the Editor of the New York "Times" Some Information and Some Plain Talk.

The following letter written by a republican resident of Virginia to the editor of the New York Times has not yet appeared in that journal, and probably will not:

RICHMOND, Va., Oct. 17, 1883.—To THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK "TIMES": I can confess to having been a reader of the Times before your able editorials adorned its pages, without laying myself liable to the charge of senility. I was a great admirer and political friend of Mr. Raymond, and have closely followed the career of his great journal, whose beginning I witnessed. I was a whig before the war, a union man during the war, and have been a republican since the war. There are some things connected with Virginia politics, which I understand better than you do, and I take the liberty of not only pointing out, but also saying so, but of also convincing you of that fact. By force, by fraud, and by treachery Virginia was wrested from the hands of republicans. Mr. Mahone, who is only a little less than a demon, and a freebooter, was no such thing as a fair election in Virginia. By him and through him every man in Virginia can today cast a free ballot which will be honestly counted. I do not know, sir, what you may think of this, but I, who have suffered much for opinion's sake, and love liberty for her own sake, regard it as a great benefaction. I dare say it is of more importance to your friends in Wall street to wring the last dollar from an impoverished people than to maintain manhood suffrage, but there can be no honest difference of opinion about that. Down in North Carolina the democrats repudiated both principal and interest of twelve millions of dollars of special tax bonds, and every dollar of interest on those bonds was repudiated. The principal of these other bonds at forty, twenty-five, and fifteen cents on the dollar, and yet I have looked in vain in your paper for bitter words against them such as you apply to Mahone, who is paying in gold a little less than your bourgeois friends here proposed to pay in promises. I am not, and never have been, a readjuster, but am simply an old-fashioned republican who believes in fair play. Now that the democrats have induced the financial policy of Mahone, I am at a loss to understand your sympathy with the enemies of the republican party. Not only has Gen. Mahone given us a free ballot, but he has caused the free schools to multiply and to be better educated to do so, in our midst. But what is more, and what is most, he has broken down the selfish, overbearing, and intolerant pretenses of a self-constituted and ridiculous paper aristocracy, and established freedom of thought and of opinion throughout our borders, and for this alone, he is hated almost as much as he is feared. In some parts of our state flags are kept flying from the houses of all who oppose the new liberal party of progress. Do you know, sir, what this means? Those who oppose the pretenses of the aristocracy of birth that is attempted to be set up in our midst are marked for future displeasure and ostracism which is less bearable than banishment. The heart of every poor and despised man in Virginia is sympathetic, open or secret, with Mahone. You have no word of encouragement for the oppressed, but seek into every nook and corner to find something to condemn in the conduct of the only man in Virginia who has been able to withstand the tyranny and oppression of the bourgeois. I remember when Mr. Raymond, a poor and friendless young lover of liberty and humanity, began his brilliant career, in which I rejoiced, until it went out in a blaze of honor and usefulness. I cannot but feel that you are sadly misrepresenting the old time spirit and purpose of the Times. If I do not sign my name to this feeble paper it is not because it is a dishonorable or dishonest name, but for other and private reasons. The truth carries its own force without the assistance of any name, however humble or illustrious. I will say, in conclusion, that your paper is much sought after by the Virginia democrats, and is, I am sorry to say, helping them to a certain extent. This is very discouraging to the young republicans, but to such as I am—the old men of the state—treachery and ingratitude seem too common to excite ought but pity. Yours, for freedom's sake, SIDNEY.

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Interesting Lecture Upon the Reform Movement in India at All Souls' Church.

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Mr. Thurber is a large importer of Swedish matches, and upon an invoice of these goods received since the decision of Secretary Folger, above mentioned, the collector at the port of New York assessed a duty to cover both the matches and the small wooden boxes in which they were packed. Mr. Thurber protested against the assessment, on the ground that the matches were not purchased in their boxed condition, but were bought in bulk, and the boxes were then bought (separately) to put them in for transportation to the United States. He maintained that under such circumstances the boxes were not subject to duty. The collector overruled this protest for the reason that the position taken by the complaining importer was not in accordance with the decision of Secretary Folger, as he the collector understood it. Mr. Thurber then addressed the goods to the secretary, who says, sustains his position with regard to the matter in controversy, viz., that when merchandise is bought in a foreign country in bulk, or in an unwrapped or unboxed condition, and is then wrapped or boxed separately to put the goods in for transportation to the United States, and for no other purpose, such boxes, wrappers, or coverings are not liable to duty. If, on the other hand, the merchandise is bought already packed, wrapped, or covered in readiness for transportation or for the market, the coverings are subject to duty as manufacturers of wood, paper, or other substance, as the case may be.

The secretary has already written a letter to the collector at San Francisco explaining the decision of the department upon this point, and it is probable that all collectors will shortly be apprised by circular or otherwise of the exact interpretation placed upon the law by the secretary, and intended to be not forth in his recent decision.

## Compromise.

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## Miscellaneous.

## IF AND IF.

"If you are suffering from poor health or languishing on a bed of sickness, take cheer, if you are simply ailing, or if you feel weak and dispirited, without clearly knowing why, Hop Bitters will surely cure you."

"If you are a Minister, and have overtaxed yourself with your pastoral duties; or a Mother, worn out with care and work; or a Man of Business or Labor, weakened by the strain of your everyday duties; or a Man of Letters, toiling over your 'midnight work, Hop Bitters will surely strengthen you."

"If you are suffering from 'over-eating or drinking,' any 'indigestion or dyspepsia,' or are young and growing 'too fast, as is often the case."

"If you are in the workshop, on the farm, at the desk, anywhere, and feel that your system needs cleansing, 'toning,' or stimulating, without intoxicating; if you are old, blood thin and 'impure,' pulse feeble, nerves unsteady, 'facilities' wanting, Hop Bitters is what you need to give you new life, health, and renewed vigor."

If you are constipated or dyspeptic, or suffering from any other of the numerous diseases of the stomach or bowels, it is your own fault if you remain ill. If you are wasting away with any form of kidney disease, stop tampering with this moment, and turn for a cure to Hop Bitters.

If you are sick with that terrible sickness Nervousness, you will find a "Halm in Gilead" in Hop Bitters.

If you are a frequenter or a resident of a malarious district, baricade your system against the scourge of all countries—malaria, epidemic, bilious, and intermittent fevers—by the use of Hop Bitters.